



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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Deadline to Apply for Cooling Assistance is Aug. 15

Richmond – The deadline to apply for 2011 Cooling Assistance is Monday, Aug. 15. The program helps many Virginia families offset the costs associated with keeping their homes cool and safe during summer months.

Virginia's 120 [local departments of social services](#) will accept applications postmarked or received through Monday, Aug. 15, as part of the Virginia Department of Social Services' (VDSS) Energy Assistance Program.

Aid is available to households **with a child under 6-years-old, a person with disabilities, or an adult age 60 or older living in the home who meet the program's income and eligibility requirements.** To qualify for Cooling Assistance this year, the maximum gross monthly income (before taxes) for a one-person household is \$1,180 and \$2,422 for a household of four.

Types of available cooling assistance include:

- Financial aid to help with electric bills to operate cooling equipment;
- Payment of security deposits for electricity to operate cooling equipment;
- Repair of a central air conditioning system or heat pump;
- Purchase of a whole-house fan, including ceiling or attic fans; and
- Purchase and installation of a window unit air conditioner for households without a working one.

Those deemed eligible may qualify for more than one type of assistance.

The Energy Assistance Program is funded by the federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program block grant; the amount Virginia receives to disburse to recipients varies from year-to-year depending on the appropriation made by Congress. Assistance is available until funds are depleted.

To learn more or download an application, visit <http://www.dss.virginia.gov/benefit/ea/index.cgi>. Individuals must apply at the local department of social services in the locality where they reside by Aug. 15, 2011.

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Editor's note: For media inquiries, contact Carla Harris at 804-726-7107. The general public should contact their local department of social services.